

IFW


# Vinson & Elkins



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September 8, 2006

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:	
September 8, 2006	
Date	Timothy S. Corder

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/715,337 entitled "HYDRATABLE FORM OF KERATIN FOR USE AS A SOIL AMENDMENT" by Robert Allen Smith et al.; Confirmation No. 2390 Attorney Docket No. KER020/4-1DIVUS*


Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application are the following:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449;
3. Copies of references B1-B6 and C1-C12; and
4. Postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this document. However, should any fee under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/KER020/4-1DIVUS.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Timothy S. Corder  
Patent Agent  
Reg. No. 38,414

9282:5588

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Tim H. Herring (w/encl.)  
Ms. Marya Breig, Docket Specialist (w/encl.)

Austin 740911v.1

**PATENT**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Robert Allen Smith, et al.

Serial No.: 10/715,337

Filed: November 17, 2003

For: HYDRATABLE FORM OF KERATIN  
FOR USE AS A SOIL AMENDMENT

Group Art Unit: 1754

Examiner: Unknown

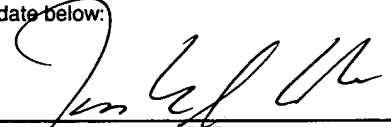
Atty. Dkt. No.: KER020/4-1DIVUS

Confirmation No. 2390

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

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September 8, 2006  
Date

  
Timothy S. Corder

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of references B1-B6 and C1-C12 are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(g), (h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be

an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/KER020/4-1DIVUS.

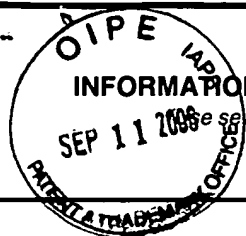
Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 8, 2006



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.

KER020/4-1DIVUS

APPLICATION NO.

10/715,337

APPLICANT(S)

Robert Allen Smith et al.

FILING DATE

November 17, 2003

GROUP ART UNIT

1754

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A1	5,837,029	11/17/98	Behel, Jr. et al.	71	63	
	A2	5,932,552	08/03/99	Blanchard et al.	514	21	
	A3	6,029,395	02/29/00	Morgan	47	9	
	A4	6,316,598	11/13/01	Van Dyke et al	530	357	

## U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	B1	CN 1137029	12/04/96	China			Abstract	
	B2	CN 1137030	12/04/96	China			Abstract	
	B3	HEI 9-59080	03/04/97	Japan			✓	
	B4	PL 160363	03/31/93	Poland			Abstract	
	B5	SU 378382	04/18/73	Russia			Abstract	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		C1	Baolin, et al., "Study on a new type of amino-acid chelated trace fertilizer," Chemical Industry and Engineering, 13(4):40-46.
		C2	Choi, et al., "Developing a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer from organic sources: I. using nonviable bacteria," J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 121(4): 629-33, 1996.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>KER020/4-1DIVUS</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/715,337</b>	
				Robert Allen Smith et al.			
				FILING <b>November 17, 2003</b>		GROUP ART <b>1754</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	B6	JP 2001087754	09/24/99	Japan				Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>			
		C3	Choi, et al., "Developing a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer from organic sources; II, using poultry feathers," J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci 121(4): 634-38, 1996
		C4	Chye, "Human hair waste and its potential utilization," Journal of the Singapore National Academy of Science, (8): 76-80, 1979

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		Docket Number (Optional) <b>KER020/4-1DIVUS</b>	Application Number <b>10/715,337</b>
		Applicant(s) <b>Robert Allen Smith et al.</b>	
		Filing Date <b>November 17, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit <b>1754</b>
*EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		
	C5	Dabek-Szreniawska, "Effect of keratin-carbamide fertilization on microorganisms in soil aggregates," Polish Journal of Soil Science, XXVI(1), 1993.	
	C6	Hadas, et al., "Feather meal, a semi-slow-release nitrogen fertilizer for organic farming," Fertilizer Research 38:165-70, 1994.	
	C7	O'Neil, "Science watch; oil spills? ask a hairdresser," The New York Times, Sec. F, Pg. 4, Col. 6, Science Desk, 6/9/1998.	
	C8	Setti, et al., "Enhanced degradation of heavy oil in an aqueous system by a pseudomonas sp. in the presence of natural and synthetic sorbents," Bioresource Technology 67:191-99, 1999.	
	C9	Sieveking, "Strange but true; barber uses his head to clean up soil spills hair," The Sunday Telegraph, 24, 1998.	
	C10	Uhlenbrock, "Roots of the matter; barber swears by hair to make gardens grow," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, News, 1D, 5/12/1996.	
	C11	Wainwright, et al., "Fertilizer potential of some commercially available forms of keratin and microbial biomass," Enzyme Microb. Technol. 7:108-110, 1985.	
	C12	Williams, et al., "Low, controlled nutrient availability provided by organic waste materials for chrysanthemum," J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 117(3):422-429, 1992.	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED	
<b>*EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.			